Woman Work

##  Maya Angelou

### Summary :

“Woman Work” is a very domestic poem depicting the typical routine life of a woman who performs her daily chores effectively and then yearns for a fantastic break amidst the elements of nature to give her strength and comfort.

As a housewife, she has to perform many chores. She has to tend her children, mend their clothes, mop the floor and do some shopping for their meals. Then she has to fry chicken, dry the baby, feed her animals, weed off her garden, press the shirts, dress her tots, cut the canes and clean up her whole house to make it beautiful and appealing.

This is the drudgery of her routine, which makes her life so monotonous and prosaic; but the woman in the poem is an idealist and wants to go in the lap of nature to give her relief and comfort. She calls forth the sun, the moon, the mountains, cold ice, and the curving sky to take her away into the space so that she can fly there, forget her neck-breaking routine, and feel the freshness of natural elements to stimulate her body and soul to once again perform the next day’s chores.

*I've got the children to tend*

*The clothes to mend*

*The floor to mop*

*The food to shop*

REFERENCE:

These lines have been taken from ‘Woman work’ written by ‘Maya Angelou'.

CONTEXT:

Poetess is sick of the domestic activities and wants to escape somewhere as to give calmness to her nerves. She wishes to observe her self in nature as she considers it her true companion.

EXPLANATION:

In this stanza, Maya mentions her exhausted, domestic activities those are common for every domestic woman. As she tells that she has to prepare the children for going to school. She has to mend the term close. After these jobs, she will clean the floor and get the food form shop, so that meal can be prepare. Lines are very easy to under stand, which tell us only the common activities of domestic woman.

*Then chicken to fry*

*The baby to dry*

*I got company to feed*

*The garden to weed*

*I've got the shirts to press*

*The tots to dress*

*The cane to be cut*

*I got to clean up this hut.*

EXPLANATION:

In this stanza Maya describes further her domestic activities. These activities show that any woman, really excuse with her dole domestic works. As she is to do a lot of work in a day. She is to fry chicken, give bath to baby, cook food for guests, weed the grass of garden, press the shirts, dress the babies, cut the cane and to cleanup the whole house.She is sick of all these regular works that have been done by her regularly.

*Shine on me, sunshine*

*Rain on me, rain*

*Fall softly, dewdrops*

*And cool my brow again.*

EXPLANATION:

Maya calls the elements of nature as she thinks then her true companion. She address the sunshine to shine on her, address the rain to rain on her, address the dew drops to falls softly on her, and cool her brow so that she may feel calmness in her own self.

*Storm blow me from here*

*with your Fiercest wind*

*Let me float across the sky*

*Till I can rest again*

EXPLANATION:

These lines show how a man cut of from the beauty of nature that, why Maya wishes to attach her self to nature.In this stanza poetess call the storm as to below her form her home with its fairest wined. Maya wants to contact every element of nature; she wants to give importance even then to the storm. She thinks that storm would float her across the sky at she can take rest form there. Infect dull and drab life has compiled her to accept the worst element of nature. That why she proffers the storm to the dull domestic life.

Fall gently, snow flakes

Cover me with white

Cold icy kisses and

Let me rest tonight.

EXPLANATION:

Maya calls every element of nature for her health. Infect she feels and conceives every kind of environment. In this stanza she calls the snowflakes to fall on her gently.Certainly she is well aware of the beauty and calmness in such atmosphere. She wants that snowflakes would cover her with there cold icy kisses. In this way she may rest for a night.

*Sun, rain, curving sky*

*Mountain, oceans, leaf and stone*

*Star, shine, moon glow*

*You're all that i can call my own*

EXPLANATION:

This stanza shows that she is closely attached to the nature. She thinks nature her true companion, that’s why she calls every element of nature. She claims that these elements always remain beside her as life giving friends. She finds a soothing effect from them.That’s why she trusts in the elements of nature.